THE STROBE

FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER

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We are the people in your neighborhood

FSC implements plans to strengthen community relations

by Derek Valcourt
Strobe staff

FSC is striving to make students a positive part of the neighborhood.

FSC is taking some major steps to address the concerns of its neighbors who live in the area surrounding the college. Two of these steps are new and include the Neighborhood Forums and the adoption of the Good Neighbor Policy (GNP).

The GNP describes the college's expectation that the students act responsibly when in the college neighborhood. It spells out specifically the behaviors that will not be tolerated when students are off-campus.

Violations of the policy, which include large parties, disorderly conduct, and unreasonable noise, will be subject to the student judicial system and the city courts.

Consequences stemming from a violation are severe. If found responsible, students would be subject to sanctions up to and including the loss of residence or suspension or dismissal from the college.

The policy was detailed and, according to Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Charles Ratto, it is important that the school be clear and up front with the students. "I think it's good procedure and policy to be clear and up front with the students rather than make a general statement," he said. "Those are issues that the college and the neighbors are concerned with so we decided to spell them out."

The Neighborhood Forums, which will meet the first Monday of each month throughout the school year, are an extension of a previous effort to address the concerns of the college's neighbors. These meetings are open to any of the college area residents and students are encouraged to come. Representatives from the Student Affairs office, Public Safety, and the Fitchburg Police Department are there to address concerns.

Previously the school worked with neighbors directly through the College Neighborhood Committee (CNC). Ratto said that there was low involvement with the CNC because it was a "committee" and people felt that they had to be part of a committee to attend.

The new forum format, which works to address problems as they arise and deals directly with neighbors, had an excellent turnout at its first meeting in September, Ratto said. He assures that it was well-publicized through mailings and the newspapers that anyone with concerns should attend.

Discussion at the first meeting focused on alcohol related problems as well as with parking on city streets. Ratto, who has been at FSC for four years, said that this meeting was the first time that he had heard there was a problem with speeding in the neighborhood.

He emphasized that the forums and GNP are not the end of the school's efforts. The school has also increased on-campus programs, revised the student judicial code, strengthened the alcohol policy, and hired Fitchburg Police to patrol the neighborhoods more carefully two nights a week.

"The feedback we are receiving says that the neighbors are pleased we are trying," said Ratto. "The people keep saying we are making real efforts to address the situation"

"These people have their rights and the students have a responsibility to recognize them..." Ratto added. "We as a college have a responsibility to our town area."

Revised SGA constitution seeks approval

by Derek Valcourt
Strobe staff

The Student Government Association (SGA) voted to approve its new constitution at an open meeting on September 21.

The constitution was approved on a second vote after it did not pass the first time because there were not enough voting members of SGA present at the meeting to pass it. The constitution under which SGA currently operates requires that 3/4 of the 34 council positions filled, whether in attendance or not, must vote to accept the constitution.

However, the current constitution also declares that all class treasurers and secretaries have no voting power. Therefore, even though 3/4 council members were present, only 20 had voting power. This was not enough to pass the motion to accept the constitution.

When a problem such as this one arises, Article IV Section II of the current constitution requires SGA to refer to the book entitled "Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure, Revised" as a guideline for procedures. In this case, however, the book suggestions were contrary to the contents of the constitution. When this happens it is customary that SGA follow the rules of its own constitution rather than the guidelines established in "Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure, Revised."

According to SGA President Linda Peare, the problem stems from the vagueness of the current constitution which reads, "Proposed changes in the constitution may be initiated by a 3/4 vote of the entire membership of the council." SGA and its advisor, Reb Rebillard, questioned whether or not the 'entire membership' included secretaries and treasurers who have a seat on council.

SGA used this vagueness to pass the constitution by including secretaries and treasurers in the vote on a new motion to accept the constitution, thereby meeting the 3/4 requirement and passing the constitution.

Peare said that the constitution was changed to prevent problems like this. "There were questions and concerns about the way things were done. We wanted to clarify the constitution, making it consistent throughout the document," said Peare, adding that the old constitution was redundant and unclear.

SGA organized a committee that went to work changing a 25 page document into a four page constitution with separate bylaws. Peare said that the new constitution

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Linda Peare, SGA President Photo by Paula Ferazzi

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Disability Services obtains computer lab through grant

by Christopher M. Swift
Contributing writer

The Fitchburg State College's Disabilities Department was issued a $15,000 grant to purchase adaptive computer equipment to be used by FSC students with disabilities.

According to Debra Horton, the Disabilities Services Coordinator, the grant allowed the department to spend the month of June renovating and installing Voice Recognition and Voice Synthesizer Scanner systems.

Students who are visually impaired will benefit from the new Oscar Jet-Scan Print Recognition Scanner. Documents can be placed into a scanner and read back to the student by a voice synthesizer.

The scanner features zoom text which can enlarge the text on the screen and it will print large or braille.

Also new this year is a voice activated computer for students without the use of their hands such as students with a Stroke, Arthritis, Multiple Sclerosis, and Cerebral Palsy.

The Dragon Dictate Voice Recognition System allows the user to wear a headset and speak into a microphone rather than type text.

"Our goal is to be able to mainstream these computers into other buildings around campus," said Horton. "By adding these systems, we will be able to make learning more accessible for students with disabilities in all majors."

Along with the new systems, the Disabilities Adaptive Computer Laboratory has IBM and Macintosh computers, Large Print Display systems, and 17" monitors.

Disabilities also offers many support services including peer advising, support groups, note takers, sign language interpreters, and Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD) machines.

"Disabilities has been working with over 150 students," Horton said. "Thanks to the new equipment in our Adaptive Computer Lab, we can make learning for students with disabilities easier and more enjoyable."

Horton said she was looking forward to becoming part of the University of Massachusetts at Boston's Statewide Adaptive Computer Network, a network of adaptive computer facilities throughout the state.

"We have been selected as a 'satellite' of the Statewide Adaptive Computing Network and are currently training staff on the installation and use of the new equipment we will receive," she said. "By 1994 we will have an extensive computer lab which we hope will attract more FSC students, provide opportunities, and open doors for the disabled in the community."

"I'd like to thank the college for their support in allowing the grant. It showed that the college is dedicated to the students and improving learning disabilities."

Grant Center opens in Hammond

by Kris Ruberti
Contributing writer

The third floor of the Hammond Building has become the home for the Grant Center and its new director, David Newton.

The center is responsible for the identification and procurement of federal, state, and other external funding to supplement existing academic resources and the enhancement of program development as well as research at the college. However, Newton feels he does more work on the federal level than on the state or private sectors.

There is now a greater need for federal and private funding because the state has made some cut backs.

The center functions on the basis that faculty from every department are notified of potential funding sources through campus mailings, newsletters, phone calls, and mail. Faculty is welcomed to the Grant Center in order to discuss research ideas that they may have and to get additional information about funding sources.

The Grant Center should be notified of all possible ideas for funding. It is also important that all faculty requests for funding sources go through the center so that they may be reviewed.

Although it is not Newton's job to construct the grant, he works closely with the initial grant writer. The center is there to assist, but it is not the job of the grant writer to conduct research before designing the proposal.

Newton and his staff are there for assistance. His job is to establish a newsletter that informs faculty and administration of funding sources, contact the sources, and edit the proposals written by the grant writers.

Each proposal written is submitted for review, and its progress is monitored very closely.

At FSC, all departments are on an equal level. No one department is in greater need for funding than another.

The $15,000 Disability Services Grant was obtained through state funding. Doctors Rona Flippo and Charles Hetzel were recipients of a four-year Literacy Grant through the US Department of Education.

"I'm pleased that things are going well," said Newton. "The college has made a commitment to the Grant Center, and you can see the progress."

FSC receives $150,000 drug and alcohol grant

by Jennifer Scull
Contributing writer

Fitchburg State College received a two-year $150,000 federal grant to improve alcohol and drug education on campus. The grant given by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) will include the combined efforts of students, faculty, and administration in an attempt to familiarize and educate the campus as a whole.

The college has hired Holly Kreidler-Phaneuf, a recent graduate, to serve as the coordinator of the grant. She worked in the counseling office at FSC for three years where she has acquired many skills in drug and alcohol education.

Among the many projects and ideas to be organized are: National Alcohol Awareness Week (October 12-15), in which special events and various speakers will highlight alcohol related issues; a peer education group with a focus on drugs and alcohol; a student theatre group named "Dandelion Theatre", which bases each skit on contemporary issues relevant to college students; and different seminars, speakers, and events to increase alcohol awareness.

According to associate vice-president for student affairs, Ann Coyne, the college already has a strong program intact based on the Substance Awareness Task Force and the Smart Choices programs. "This will allow us to intensify our efforts and multiply our impact," said Coyne.

"I'd like to see a lot more student involvement in this issue on campus," said Kreidler-Phaneuf. "Ideally, I would love to see the attitudes and behaviors about substance abuse change on campus, that is not something that is going to change overnight."

"Written by Herself": A 12 year labor of love

by Danielle Sullivan
Strobe Staff

Frances Smith Foster photo by Andrienne Clark-Sentinel & Enterprise

Author and Professor Frances Smith Foster presented a lecture to FSC students and faculty on Monday, September 13. Her lecture focused on the discussion of her latest book, "Written By Herself", and the process by which she wrote it.

Foster, a professor at the University of California at San Diego, was acting as a consultant to the English Department concerning the update of the curriculum during her visit to the college.

"Written By Herself", Foster's second book, is the first comprehensive cultural history written about African American women's literature before the 20th century. Foster profiles these women's lives and their struggles to voice their opinions.

Many people were not aware that black women wrote or that there was an audience for their literature. Through twelve years of meticulous research, Foster dug up proof of many essays, poems, and letters written by black women from as early as the 17th century.

In her lecture, Foster profiled some of the women covered in her book. One woman was Phyllis Wheatley, who was kidnapped and sold to a man who used her as a maid but also educated her. By the age of fourteen, Wheatley was publishing poems. She became politically active and eventually won her freedom through literary fame.

Foster said that these women recognized that they were not white heterosexual males at a time when nothing else was accepted. However, they developed tricks and strategies, such as pseudonyms, to have their works published. They were also encouraged by their ability to envision better lives for themselves. Foster described herself as "a messenger as well as having received the message." This is what women strove to say about their lives, enslavements and politics.

Foster said that through her twelve years of research she was able to overcome many obstacles by the motivation she received from the black women's literature. Her struggle was minuscule next to theirs—a struggle to be heard, understood, and set free.

SGA continued

contained only important issues that the students would want to vote on.

The bylaws were separated to serve as SGA's rules of order. They incorporate rules on offices hours, position requirements, and meeting rules. They can only be changed by the SGA Council. "This was set up so that every time we want to change something in the bylaws, we don't have to have a referendum go to the student body," Peare said.

According to Peare, this will make it easier to change a bylaw, whereas in the past, any minor change would have to be voted on by the student body. She said students didn't want to be bothered with such trivial matters and now students would vote on matters that are important to them.

The new constitution must be passed by the student body before it becomes the official constitution of the SGA. If it passes, the constitution goes into effect, but it still needs to be approved by the Student Organizations Committee which reviews all club's and organization's constitutions. Then it needs to be accepted by the Student Affairs Department, and finally, it has to be approved by President Mara.

Peare said that if it does not get approval at any point in that chain, it becomes nullified. However, Peare said she feels confident that it will be passed.

The constitution goes before the students on October 12-14 while the freshman class elections are also being held on October 13-14. An open forum to address the new constitution will be held October 7 at 1:30 in Ellis White Lecture Hall. Freshmen's All-Candidates Hour will also be held during that hour.

WELCOME BACK!!!
F S C STUDENTS
from

Slattery's
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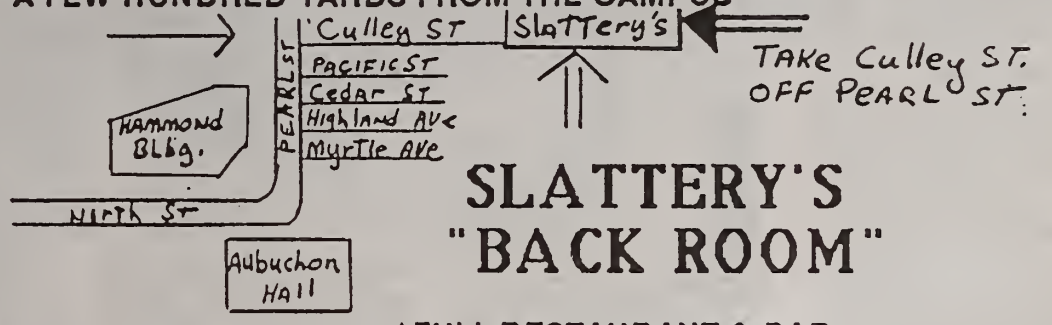

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- *SATELLITE, CABLE, & S.N.I. NETWORK
- *POOL TABLE, BOWLING MACHINE PIN-BALL, C D JUKE BOX...
- *ALWAYS DRAFT BEER ON TAP
- *NEVER A COVER CHARGE
- *"FRONT ROOM" GRILL MENU: Starts at $1.10 and Ends at $2.50
- ***POSITIVE I D (21) NEEDED!

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- *FUNCTION ROOM at NO CHARGE
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*****NEVER A COVER CHARGE**

*****ALWAYS DRAUGHT ON TAP**
EVERY DAY...ALL DAY LONG

*****NEVER A "BLACKED OUT" GAME**
ALL PATRIOT HOME GAMES...
ALL NFL GAMES ARE AVAILABLE

"KENO"... IS COMING
WE WILL BE IN THE FIRST GROUP
OF RESTAURANTS TO HAVE THE NEW
MASS. STATE LOTTERY GAME
"KENO"

***FREE FOOD...
FOR SATURDAY AFTERNNOON SPORTS
SUNDAY NFL ACTION
MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

JOIN US THIS WEEK...
PLEASE!!!
IF YOU DRINK...DON'T DRIVE

106 Lunenburg St.
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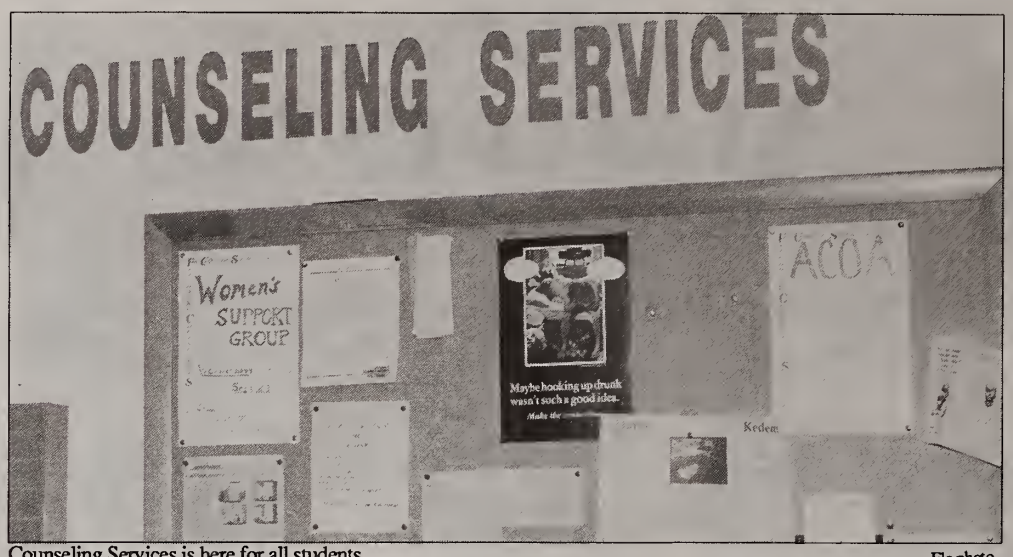
Counseling Services aims for wellness

Craig Cucchiara
Strobe staff



Counseling Services is here for all students. File photo

In case you haven't noticed, college life can get fairly stressful and we are all subject to various sorts of crises in our lives. Fortunately, there's help. Fitchburg State provides a center for students to discuss their concerns - ranging from relational issues to problems dealing with alcoholism, sexual trauma or eating disorders.

Counseling Services, located on the third floor of the Hammond Building, is available as a free service to all full-time students at the college. In addition to regularly scheduled, weekly meetings (posted here in the Strobe's announcement section and around campus) the center is also open to students from 2-3:00 each weekday. Students can drop in to discuss whatever problems or concerns they may be facing. The office offers five therapists who are available to address any student issues. Appointments can be made for private consultation with a staff member and all dealings are confidential.

The center is an informal place and students need not feel that their problems are somehow not important enough to be dealt with. "We are open to all students. We don't just deal with people who have so called 'major problems'. Our focus is on wellness," said Donna Goodwill, a member of the center's staff.

As a means of outlining a major focus of the center, Goodwill went on to cite the example of students seeking assistance coping with ending relationships. "These people are the ones who develop other problems - such as low self esteem or eating disorders. What we'd like them to know is that we're here to talk out their problems before they break up and before there's trauma. It's preventative medicine."

Students who may be new to the campus and don't know many people or what the college has to offer, or students who are just interested in forming friendships outside of the cold classroom environment are invited to attend a weekly Relationships Group. "Part of college life is learning about other people and building relationships on a deeper level than what you get, say, at a party. We're hoping that by offering this chance for students to come together they'll be able to learn and grow," said Pat Buttner, Director of Counseling with the center. The group meets from 3:30-5:00 on Thursday afternoons in B26/27.

Counseling Services' staff is eager to address any student organization or class on issues of social concern. Their service and expertise is open to groups, such as sororities and fraternities. In addition, they are available to go into dorms or classrooms to do presentations and workshops. Anyone seeking this sort of consultation is asked to drop by the office and to discuss specific group needs.

Students are also invited to visit the Counseling Services Office to read over the various print material they have available. There is a comfortable, private lounge where students are welcome to browse through pamphlets ranging from facts about STD's to dealing with an alcoholic parent or parents.

Buttner stressed the center's intent on affirming each student's importance and eliminating "any experience that's less than nurturing". By developing a student's relationship with self and with other people, Counseling Services is helping to build a stronger sense of community at FSC. It's a worthy goal and a valuable resource.

Wagner named Dean of Curriculum and Instruction

by Audra Johnson
Contributing writer

Shirley Ann Wagner has been named the Dean of Curriculum and Instruction of the Undergraduate Division at Fitchburg State College.

Dr. Wagner joined the college's faculty in 1977 as a political science instructor. For the past five years, she has served as chair of the Social Sciences Department.

Her new position is a two year appointment while still maintaining a faculty status. After two years, there will be a national search for the position. She can choose to apply for the permanent position or return to the faculty.

Dr. Wagner is responsible for the curriculum, majors, general requirements, and for how the curriculum is taught in the classroom. She oversees all academic advising, including the Academic Advising Center and the Academic Success Center. Workshops are provided for the faculty to keep them up to date on student advising. She also provides services to accommodate students with disabilities.

In her new position, Wagner would like to keep focused on the new liberal arts and sciences program which she helped to create. She also wants to improve the freshman theme. There is also going to be more interdisciplinary courses offered to build more aspects of the curriculum.

Her major goal for the next two years is to get all the pieces of the new program running smoothly. Decline in enrollment has encouraged some new programs to attract incoming students.

Wagner said that most students come to her needing waivers or readmission. She said that she is open to problems, but stresses she would like students to come forward with ideas on the academic program and curriculum.

Shirley Ann Wagner, Dean of Curriculum Photo by John Camarao

Professor Profile: Caryl Sickul

Caryl Sickul File photo

Jason Koivu
Staff writer

As a service to the members of the Fitchburg State College campus, the Strobe will feature on a regular basis a Professor Profile. The idea is to become aware of the special resource we possess in our diverse faculty.

This week's profile is on Caryl Sickul, an Associate Professor of Physical Education in her thirteenth year of work at FSC.

Sickul, who has two masters degrees, one in Dance Movement Therapy, was director of a dance company for seven years before coming to FSC. Here she teaches dance techniques, choreography, yoga and other creative arts.

"Dance is exciting as sports, if not more so. I would like to invite people to explore and share that energy and belief," said Sickul, who got her chance to do that over the summer at the White Mountains Summer Dance Festival. Teachers from such prestigious schools as the Julliard Conservatory of New York City and the University of Washington were also on hand to teach the students ballet, choreography, yoga and weight training.

Sickul choreographed a solo dance called "Blanche Comme la Neige" which, translated, means "White Like the Snow". It will be performed at the college for Dance Movement Therapy class, during Woman's History Month and also at the Cambridge Multicultural Art Center. Student choreography will be performed at the Eleventh Annual Student Dance Concert in the spring.

Between school and dance, Professor Sickul still finds time to pursue other activities. She enjoys travel and has been to Mexico, Canada, Europe and Asia, including Indonesia, New Guinea and Polynesia. While traveling she studies cultures, natural surroundings, and indigenous dances.

She also enjoys time with friends, hiking, canoeing, foreign films, the theater, music and reading. Recently having completed the Freshman Foundation Book "Dining at the Homesick Restaurant" by Anne Tyler, Sickul reports it to be "very good".

Dance movement seems to be Professor Sickul's main interest in life along with her husband Doug, who designs and builds passive solar homes. She believes that "everyone can dance if they're alive and breathing."

Mentally handicapped form a winning team

Rob Haneisen
Strobe staff

It is 9:15 on a weekday morning and the Holmes Dining Commons at Fitchburg State College is filled with bustling students trying to get in a quick breakfast before morning classes. As the students finish their meals, they hastily deposit and sometimes throw their trays into a small open window framed in shiny stainless steel that leads to the dishroom. Very few of the students notice the large strong hands that take the discarded trays, remove any paper and glass, and then send the tray on down the conveyer belt where the rest of its contents will be systematically removed.

That pair of hands belongs to David Sawyer. Through the window you can not see the charm beneath David's smile; all you can see are his strong, thick arms and busy hands working their hardest to keep up with the volume of trays. Through the window you only get a glimpse of his large six foot frame that works with an enthusiasm and energy that would satisfy any boss.

David and around nine of his co-workers come to work Monday through Friday at the Dining Commons from 7:30 in the morning until 3:30 in the afternoon. They work in a hot and steamy dish room where shirts become a sticky nuisance clinging to backs and arms that are constantly in motion. Dirty dishes and trays littered with discarded food and trash enter through the window and move on down the conveyer belt like cars of a train that never ends.

This is no glory job, yet there is no grumbling or complaining. The eagerness to work forms a strong bond among the conveyer crew. They are a team and they are all mentally handicapped.

"I think they are great; sometimes more dependable than students and much less apt to refuse to do a job," said Dan Auger, who has been the Director of Food Services at Fitchburg State College for four years.

Fitchburg State currently contracts the Gardner-Athol Area Mental Health Association Inc. (GAAMHA), an agency which provides work sites for the mentally handicapped. FSC is considered a supportive work site where two supervisors are placed in charge of all the workers. GAAMHA then pays the workers according to their ability and the amount they work. Once the program is contracted it runs itself which, according to Auger, is the beauty of it all. Any disciplinary actions, or division and assigning of work load is handled by the supervisors.

"This is a training program where hopefully some of the workers will graduate to an unsupervised competitive work site," said Roberta Graves who is one of the supervisors at the FSC site.

"They are trained to do every job so we can recommend them for other jobs," said Sandy Ballentine, who also works as a supervisor.

Graves, who has just recently returned to this field of work after a number of years has noticed a great deal of improvement which she feels has to do with the cooperation of the public and the dining commons staff. "They really care. They know it means a lot to these guys to be in touch with other people," said Graves.

Along with the good, Graves admits to seeing some ignorance on the part of the public in dealing with the mentally handicapped

Holmes Dining Commons File photo

workers. She claims that some people just don't understand and because they don't, they are afraid. Despite these exceptions, she feels that most of the students get along fine with the workers and some even know them by name.

"I think there should be more businesses that would hire these people. Businesses should give these people a chance. A lot of people don't know how much these people can do, but it just seems that there is too much fear and ignorance that stands in the way," said Graves.

When talking about his first experience with this type of program at Cushing Academy ten years ago, Dan Auger, then Assistant Manager of Food Services, said, "I was very reluctant at first, but I was willing to give it a try. I suppose there was a little fear involved, that's all it was."

Now, when asked about his feelings for this program and how it may be improving the public's overall image of the handicapped, Auger said, "I think it improves it, but I don't see the issues I saw ten years ago. Most students don't show any discomfort working with the handicapped. I think people have really begun to accept them. I am very impressed with the student body and their behavior."

At 10:30, David takes his lunch break and eats with his friend and co-worker Rick Brassard. Rick is a veteran of seven years with the program compared to David's six. One can not help but notice their sense of pride and happiness as they describe their jobs in minute detail and talk of how at the end of every summer they look forward to the beginning of the school year and work.

"I like everything here," said Rick, "We get along great with DAKA. They're kind to us and we're kind to them."

When asked what they would do if they did not have their jobs here, David responded by saying, "Nothing. It's hard to find a job out there. I look in the want ads and...it's just hard because there is nothing else. I want to stay here. Some days you don't feel like working, but you come in anyway. Life goes on and you have to support yourself."

As their lunch break came to a close, and the students began filing in, Rick and David and the rest of the crew got up from their tables and re-tied the maroon aprons behind their backs. They marched off to their own stations along the conveyer belt, ready to snatch a dirty coffee cup or sort through silverware. They stand ready at their posts like soldiers on a perimeter guard, each person an intricate part of a working team that gets the job done, and that's all any boss could want.

The Weathervane: a bland disappointment

by Kathy Quinn
Contributing writer

The Weathervane Restaurant, located at 1290 Main Street, Leominster, claims to offer "quality seafood...and a strong value for your dollar." However, our experience forces us to totally disagree.

At the Weathervane there is a spacious lot that has ample parking including a number of handicapped spaces. The building is handicapped accessible. As well as the restaurant, the Weathervane offers a full bar and a fresh seafood market.

We arrived around 7p.m. on a Wednesday evening and were promptly seated in a large dining room that is connected to a smaller dining area. The table and chairs were reminiscent of the DAKA cafeteria at the college, with steel framed stacking chairs and wobbly tables.

The restaurant offers a variety of appetizers ranging from fried mushroom ($1.65/sm.) to steamed mussels ($2.95/sm.), along with the average fare of potato skins and mozzarella sticks. We settled on fried onion rings and mozzarella sticks. The onion rings were hot and greasy, just like they should be, and the mozzarella sticks were plenty for two. We thought it unusual that the mozzarella sticks came with no marinara sauce, until our waiter came back with the sauce and apologies.

The Weathervane offers almost every seafood dinner imaginable. along with steaks and sandwiches. You can have your seafood fried, baked or broiled and combination dishes are available.

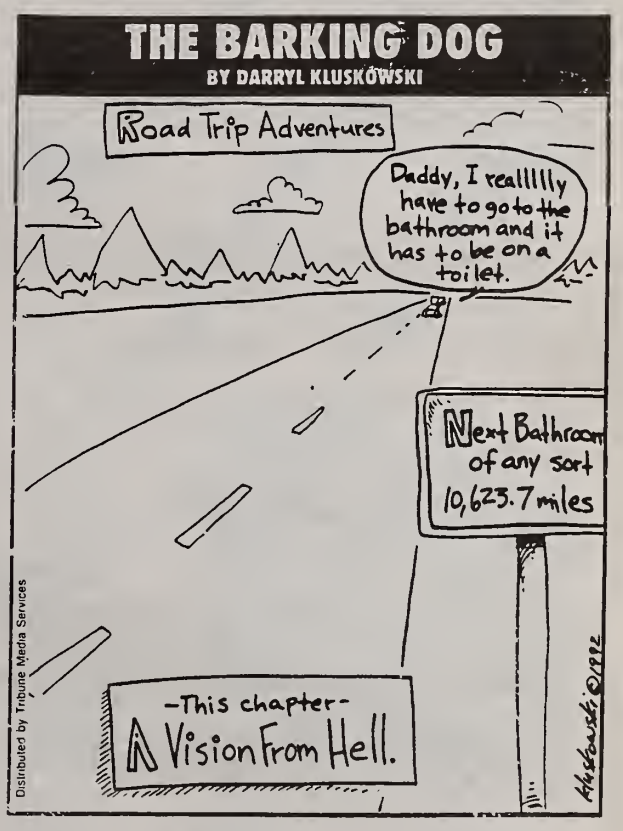
My partner, Derek, ordered the fried scallop and clam combination dinner, which is served with coleslaw and a choice of French fries or rice pilaf ($10.95, priced daily). I ordered the fried lobster tail dinner, served with a choice of tossed salad or clam chowder and a baked potato, fries or rice ($12.95, priced daily).

Derek chose the rice pilaf but instead he received French fries on his plate. The waiter realized his mistake and swiftly returned with a cup of lukewarm rice pilaf. There was a generous serving of clams and scallops, which were unfortunately cold. The clams were bland and dry and the scallops had a rubbery quality.

My salad was the standard iceberg lettuce with a couple of slices of onion and a few chunks of tomato - very ordinary. The lobster tails looked small on the large plate and the batter was heavy and greasy. The lobster itself was chewy and overcooked.

A noteworthy fact about the restaurant is that it serves everything on paper plates, which didn't bother us except that it produces a lot of unnecessary waste.

Including drinks, the meal came to $48.65, a little expensive for the average college student's budget and the quality of the food didn't reflect the price. We left the Weathervane aching from the uncomfortable seating, ill from the greasy food and broke from the dent in our wallets.



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Save $5 On Disposable Contact Lenses or Replacement Soft Contact Lenses

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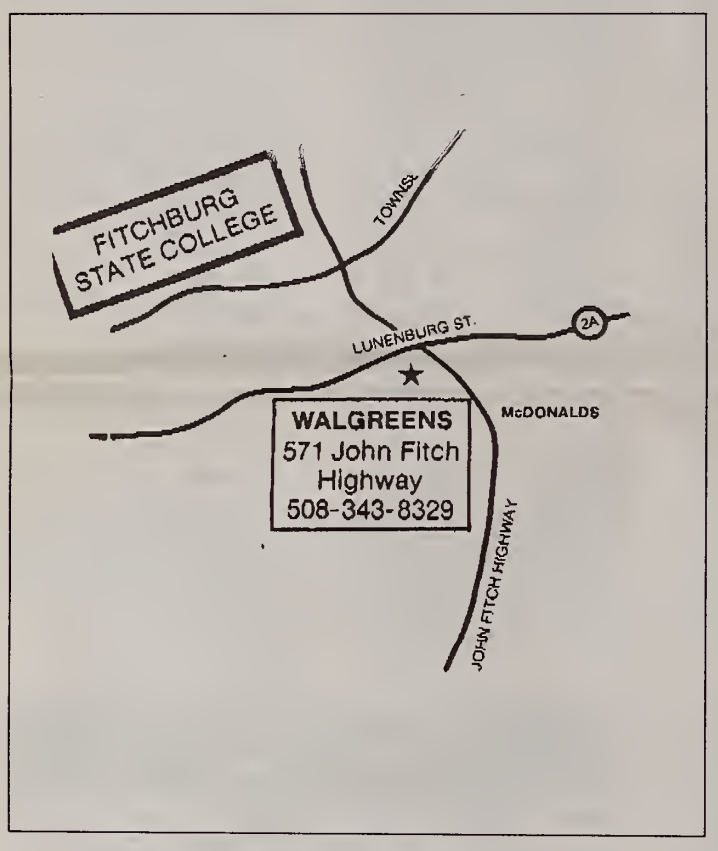
CUSTOMER: Redeem this coupon for $5.00 off the purchase price of 24 or more disposable contact lenses or a pair of replacement soft contact lenses. Only one coupon per purchase; you pay any sales tax. **PHARMACIST:** You will be reimbursed for the face value plus 8¢ handling provided you record the prescription number, customer's name store stamp and the date of purchase. You must also sign the coupon. Void where prohibited. Mail to: Professional Contacts on Call, P.O. Box 46072, Chicago, IL 60646-982

Prescription #

Customer's Name

Pharmacist's Signature

Store Stamp



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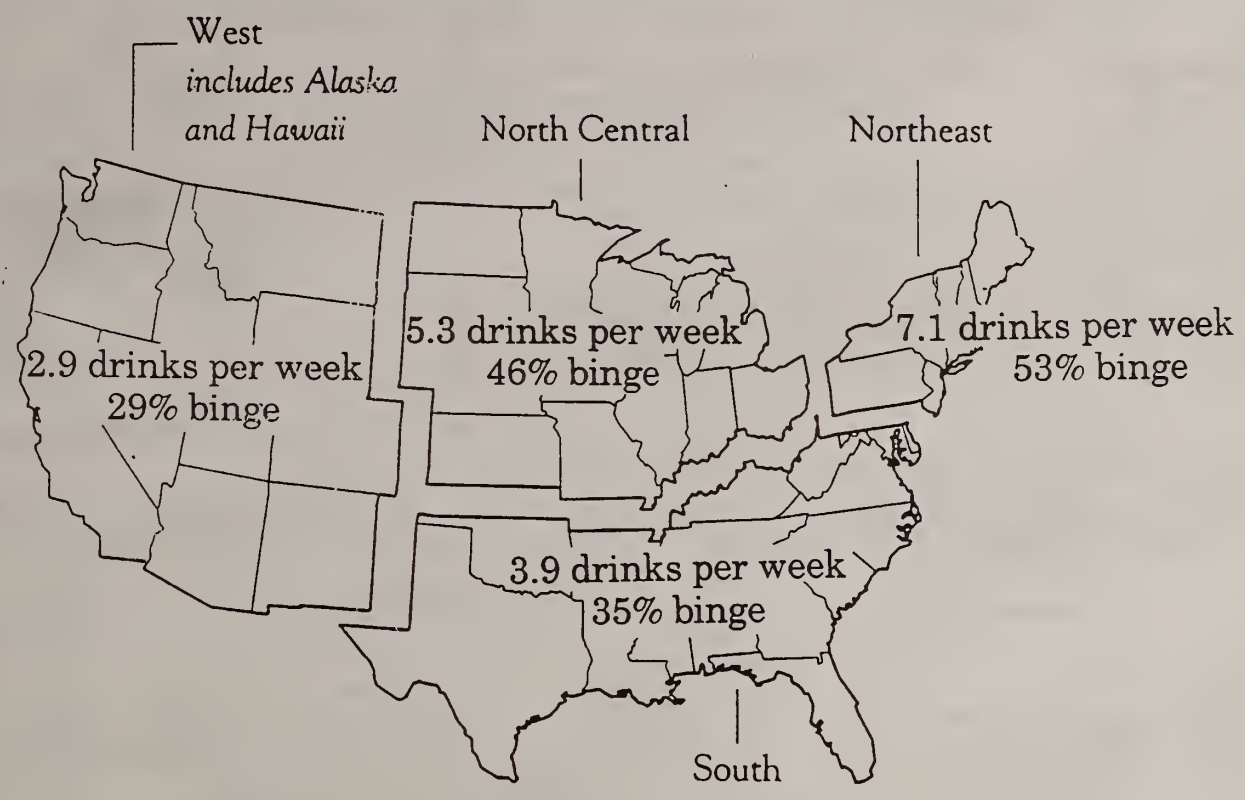
ALCOHOL ABUSE



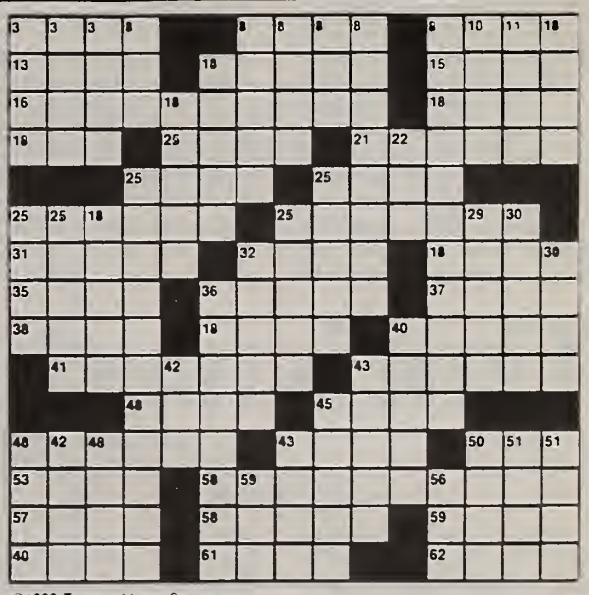
Average Number Of Drinks Per Week
Percentage Binging In The Previous Two Weeks

Wild Kingdom

Distributed by Tribune Media Services
By Anthony Rubino, Jr.

THE ARMCHAIR REBEL

THE Crossword



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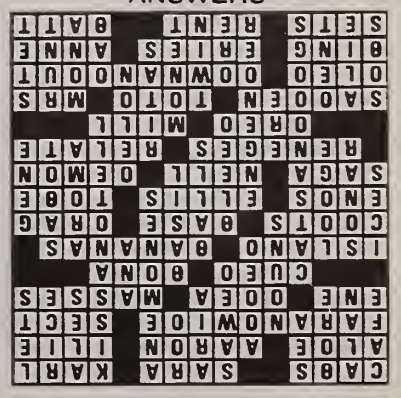
ACROSS
1 Truck compartments
5 Poet Teasdale
9 — Marx
13 Cosmetic ingredient
14 Moses' brother
15 Nastase of tennis
16 Everywhere
18 Denomination
19 Comp. pt.
20 Concert halls
21 Crowds
23 Informed, in a way
24 — fide
25 Coney —
28 Woody Allen movie
31 Old fellows
32 Diamond feature
33 Haul
35 Completes
36 — Island
37 "— or not ..."
38 Grandiose story
39 Actress Carter
40 Fiend
41 Welshes
43 Tell
44 — Scott
45 Place to grind grain
46 Depress
49 "Wizard of Oz" dog
50 Mama's title
53 Margarine
54 Destitute
57 Singer Crosby
58 Iroquoians
59 Ms Boleyn
60 Studio structures
61 Charter
62 Mass of cotton fibers

DOWN
1 — au lait
2 Author Milne
3 Dull person
4 Bering or Coral
5 Cut
6 Song
7 Fishing pole
8 Cup-shaped flowers
9 Blab
10 Pub orders
11 Oriental staple
12 "— Make a Deal"
14 Did sums
17 Names, e.g.
22 Actress Alicia
23 Rain — (pour)
24 Aromatic herb
25 Frosts
26 Detection device
27 Rustic abode
28 Globes
29 Fragrance
30 Shoe
32 Extort money from
34 Dancer Kelly
36 Produce
40 Fr. actor Alain
42 Before
43 Moreno and Gam
45 Painter Claude
46 Cries
47 "I cannot tell —"
48 Fender bender
49 Romulus or Remus
50 — Lisa
51 Small one
52 Dele's opposite
55 Raw metal
56 Wipe lightly

ANSWERS



THE STROBE
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From The Editor's Desk...

"Like Mike, if I could be like Mike."

So goes the refrain from a popular ad campaign in which a variety of youngsters emulate and seek to imitate the greatest basketball player that ever lived, Michael Jordan. The murder of James Jordan, Michael's father, has caused the ad to be pulled from the air, and the happy refrain has become tragically ironic.

James Jordan was gunned down in his car as he slept on the side of the road. His death just another black man killed in an act that has become this country's favorite pastime, random violence. He is just another black man murdered, leaving a son fatherless, a scenario played out everyday in this country. The difference? His son is the darling of the sports page, as American as apple pie and hot dogs.

Is it that strange then that this man, Michael Jordan, should suffer from the same epidemic that has become so inherently American? No. Tragic? Yes.

Florida, a land equated with epitomizing America, full of sun, beauty, wealth, and success, has become an example of the underside of America, an underside that goes hand in hand with the side that everyone sees. Scores of tourists from around the globe flock to Florida for a chance to get away and explore the land that has brought the world celebrities like Michael Jordan and Madonna. Unfortunately, a few of them were shown the side of America not on the brochures, and travel plans gave way to funeral arrangements. "Give me your tired, huddled masses..."

The tourist slogan for Florida that was scrapped when tourists started getting offed was "Florida: The Rules Are Different Here". Are the rules really just different in Florida? Aren't they different everywhere in the US, where a gun is a hell of a lot easier to get and often times commands a great deal more respect than a good education?

Solutions? There are no quick fix answers to this American problem; it has gone on for too long and is deeply ingrained in our society's fabric. There are, however, a few suggestions that could lead to dialogue and the saving of lives. Namely, tax guns and gun permits through the roof. If Clinton's health plan calls for a 75 cents to a dollar tax increase on cigarettes because of the burden they are on the current system, shouldn't guns then be taxed heavily as well?

Second, outlaw all semi-automatic and automatic weapons. People have a right to defend their homes and to hunt, but there is absolutely no need for Uzis and the like.

Lastly, pass The Brady Bill. If implemented, this would among other things, allow for a 21 day waiting period on all gun purchases. Background checks could be run, and lives could be saved. Right now, you can buy a gun at a flea market in Vermont, no questions asked.

Violence permeates nearly every aspect of our lives. Until the madness stops. there will be thousands more children, be they from Germany, from Boston, or from right next door who will "Be Like Mike", not because they play basketball, but because they will have felt the sting of random senseless violence taking away a loved one.

A distortion of truth

by Robert Underwood
Contributing writer

On September 8, 1993, an article appeared in the Worcester Telegram and Gazette which raised the question, "Is Brett Whare a voice to represent Fitchburg State?"

To first clear the air, Brett Whare is a fictional character in the realms of the "Jerky Boy" humor. His statement made in the Telegram have sparked many different emotions here at Fitchburg State and abroad.

The article tells of a student being stabbed at the beginning of the school year at an off campus party in Fitchburg. The article goes on to say the name of the accused, the weapons found, how they arrested the suspect, but when the Telegram went to interview students, one voice spoke out.

"It was a melee," said Brett Whare, 20, a junior from Lowell. "It was nuts. All kinds of people were throwing bottles and people were getting kicked down stairs. People get dumb. Everyone was cocked. Everyone was fighting, people were going nuts. I've never seen anything like this."

Whare goes on to say that the fight was between "two people who didn't get along too good." Whare, unfortunately was the only person interviewed.

To have insight enough to see this through the administrations eyes, the portrayal of Fitchburg State is in a state of melee itself. The teachers here struggle everyday to better the college, and bond the students. From their view this is another mountain to climb, another blemish on the image of the college, so that the view all people have of Fitchburg State is a clear one.

In the same aspect, the students at Fitchburg State should see Brett Whare for who he is and what he spoke for. Whoever he was, he meant no harm and tried to show the lighter side of the subject at hand. His perspective for the students shows that there will always be violence and that it is all right to laugh about it. The general consensus of reply to Mr. Whare's statement is first to laugh, then to think of the ramifications which follow; the bad reputation and most of all the truth.

I laughed when I found out Brett Whare had his own piece in the Telegram. However, we must all seek the truth and learn a lesson from what has happened. The time for investigation into the real identity of Whare has passed. What is written is done. We have to move on. Behind all the giggles and laughter we must now seek the truth. There are now people in Worcester County that picked up the paper that day and made a quick judgement on FSC. Where is the justice in that?

I propose one goal to all of you who read this article. Think! Don't believe everything you see and hear. Make your own decisions based on you own facts.

In conclusion, I ask all students to question authority and take nothing for granted, for how many thoughts in your head could be false from misleading articles like Brett Whare's? Trust is a big word today and wise people know you can not trust everyone. So know your beliefs, question everything, even me.

Time is much too short

by Mark Wilson
Contributing Writer

I find myself putting things aside at times because of lack of mental feelings. This lack seems to inflict discomfort to my emotions if I do something at a time when I don't feel like doing it. At the time when I started writing this, I didn't feel like doing it. But if everyone didn't do things because of how they felt, nobody would do anything.

There are times in life when we don't feel like going out with our friends or family members because of homework or work or something that keeps us busy in our lives. Work must be done, and sometimes takes up huge amounts of time. The phrase, "I have no time," is most frequently used by people when giving reasons why they have not written or spent time with the people they love.

We might also not be around these people because we are angry or frustrated with them. Of course, this happens sometimes, but what if you feel this way about somebody all the time? It is usually easier to find reasons and complaints not to hang around certain people than to try and understand that the reason for your complaining is a character flaw in them that you also have.

"We can always get together tomorrow," is a common phrase used by procrastinators. It's always hopeful to do things tomorrow but what if tomorrow never came? For 19 year old Peter Kukala it didn't. He was killed suddenly and tragically while fixing a car. Many people die everyday that we don't know. There could come a day when someone you know dies unexpectedly, or maybe it already has happened. Death always seems to awaken people. Death and regret is something that can not be fixed.

The past can not be changed, but the future can. It doesn't mean living everyday in fear, but means living everyday day to the fullest. This is a challenge for you and me to try and do. You should try to make time for the most important things in your life. Maybe it means cutting a few hours of work, or apologizing to someone we have a grievance with. Sacrifice is necessary to get anything worth having. Time is short and we don't have much of it. Working to the point where we have no time for family or friends is dangerous. There will always be work to be done, but loved ones might not always be there.

"That man is not truly brave who is afraid either to seem to be, or to be, a coward when it suits him."—*Edgar Allen Poe*

Distributed by Tribune Media Services

POINT vs COUNTERPOINT

The Middle East Peace Accord

A dilemma solved by necessities

by Ali Errishi, Ph.D.
Professor of Physics and Philosophy

War is dumb. Like alcoholism and toxic waste, it is a nasty plague that people inflict on themselves and each other. I am not talking about the inalienable right for self-defense. I am talking about the industrious use of violence to achieve ulterior political objectives. War is cruel, cowardly and degenerate and whenever peace takes place we should rejoice.

True peace, however, is more than a political event. It is goodwill towards former enemies. The motives behind silencing the guns is what distinguishes peace from truce. Unless there is a heartfelt commitment to peaceful coexistence, the peace initiative between Israelis and Palestinians will be short-lived. In the absence of education, all enterprises are null and void.

Since this peace is yet another confirmation of the principle "dilemmas solved by necessities", I am optimistic that it will prevail. The following are a number of conditions which most Arabs and Muslims may think necessary for irreversible peace - God only knows if they re also sufficient.

1. The practice of using biblical accounts to draw up the sovereign boundaries of any nation must be renounced. Holy books were not intended as political maps for the generals to pursue.

2. An independent Palestinian state must be established. Considering the military superiority of Israel, together with the United States' commitment to its sovereignty, such a Palestinian state will not be any more threatening to Israel than Israel's other more powerful neighbors - whom it consistently defeated.

3. A serious effort must be made to go beyond the accidental in the history of the Palestinians (e.g. sporadic acts of violence) to the essentials of their predicament. It is the predicament of a people who had been dispossessed of their land and national identity and suffered great injustice and so much deprivation. It is the responsibility of all those who contributed to the plight of the Palestinians to restore hope among them.

Around 1911, the American philosopher, William James envisioned his "moral equivalent to war" as an attempt to offer "better substitutes" to "the glory and shame that comes to nations as well as to individuals from the ups and downs of politics and the vicissitudes of trade". A socioeconomical program which serves as a "moral equivalent to war" is dearly needed if the peace is to survive the bad old habits of warring and mistrust.

In the same way justice is a prerequisite for true peace, true peace, at times, is a prerequisite for justice. It allows former enemies to get to know each other and thus learn to meet each other half way. That is what justice is all about, meeting "others" half way. Throughout the years a good number of conflictmongers have invested so much in the conflict. Most of those did not live the daily conditions of the conflict and a few, if any, have lost any children to it. May those who paid, and are paying, the price of their conflict not let the merchants of death come between them and kill the peace. May the sweet sound of peace delight the hearts of my people, Jews, Christians and Muslims, together once and for all.

Delighted and distressed in a time of peace

by Jonathan Panitz
Contributing writer

For as far back as I can remember, I harbored a particular distrust and general animosity for the enemies of the State of Israel and the enemies of the Jewish people. I focused this against those who supported the terrorist campaigns against Israel and all those who lent support to the murder and destruction of innocent men, women, and children. The victory of the Sinai Campaign, the Six Day War, followed by near defeat in September of 1973, convinced me that the Arab armies could lose any number of wars and still come back. Now, the news of peace between bitter enemies has me both elated and distressed.

I am delighted because it might mean that Israeli fathers, sons, daughters and mothers need no longer fear immanent battle. I am delighted because it might mean that Israel, which spends more of its per capita dollar on defense than any other item, might free up money for medicine, technology, and social programs. I am delighted because it might mean that Palestinian youth will no longer learn to count to ten by listing how many dead Israelis they have seen. I am delighted because it might mean that Palestinian mothers will no longer have to worry where their children will grow up. Finally, I am delighted that the combined powers of peace loving Arabs and Israelis might turn the tide against all those who reject the peace.

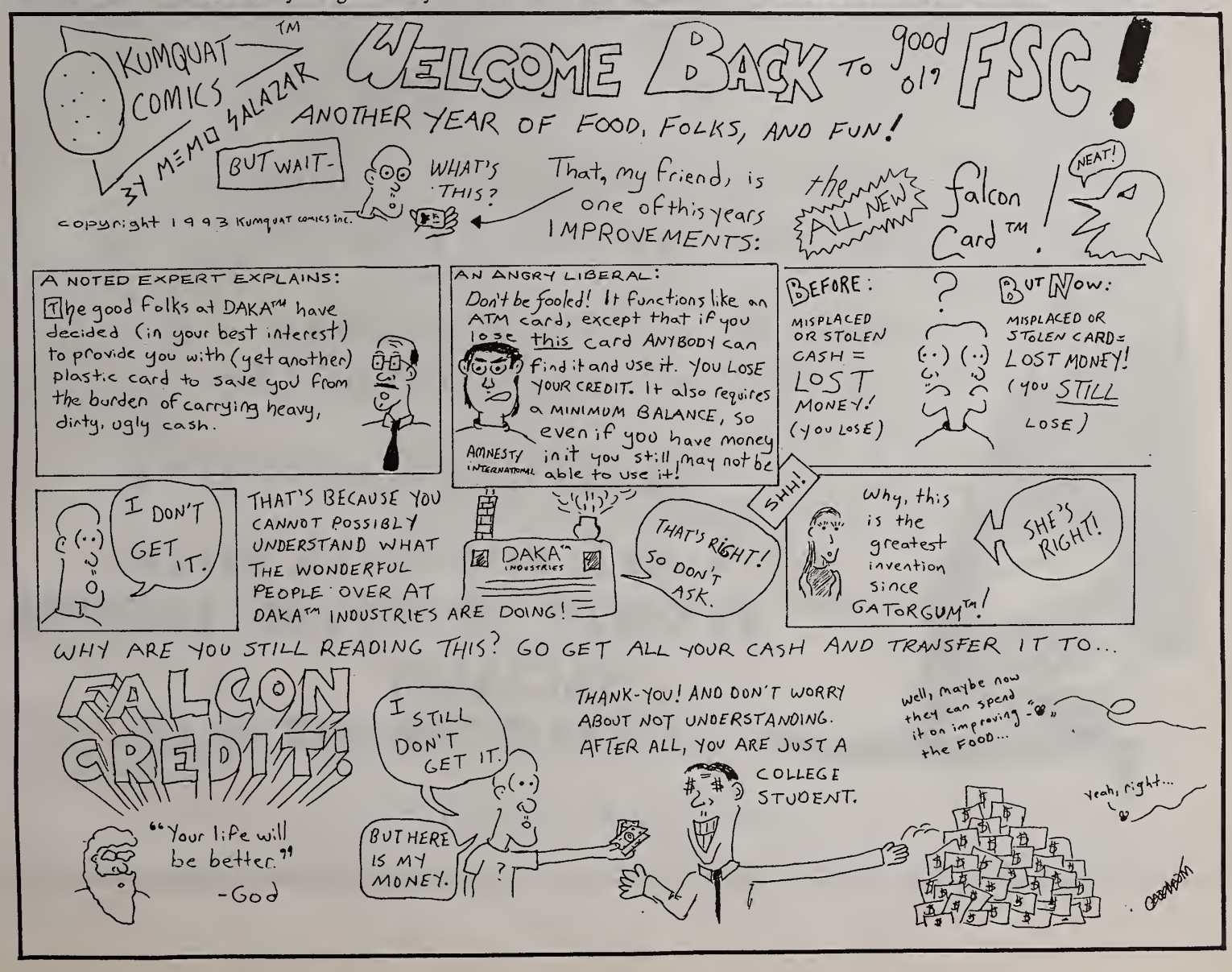
I am distressed because I wonder how all the fractious Palestinian groups will bend to Yassir Arafat's will. I am distressed because the Western mind simply does not think nor react as does the Arab mind. This distinction bears impact upon an immediate peace which in Western terminology means a cessation of hostilities. For the Middle Eastern Arab mind, it bears greater impact upon the peace of tomorrow and not of today.

Specifically, what are the real goals of the Palestinian leaders? What is meant when Jericho is touted as the return of the West Bank? What will happen to the peace if Arafat should become a martyr to his people? These questions are just a preview of the static and discord which might ensue.

It would be intoxicating to think that the new peace will be a quick fix to a region which has spent the past two thousand years fighting over an area of land no larger than the state of New Jersey. Only the most naive individuals could hold this opinion. I must reserve my elation until the thorny issues of economic cooperation, border controls, local militia jurisdiction, watershed control, safeguards against terrorist activity, and much more are resolved by the parties involved.

It would also be foolish for Israel to relax its security posture. History has shown that she can not do this.

I am simultaneously elated and distressed. I must reserve my judgment and await the peace of the long haul.



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The real joke

by Rob Haneisen
Strobe Staff

Sometimes world events seem so ludicrous and backwards that you have to stop and laugh. We laugh at other people's pain because at least it's not happening to us. We don't have to deal with the consequences or wonder how to get out of a painful jam that strangers would perceive to be humorous.

Such is the case in Russia these days with their current state of political instability. First, Russian Parliament fires the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, because they believe he is not doing a good enough job. Yeltsin retaliates by firing Russian Parliament because they are standing in the way of his democratic reforms. Then, Russian conservative leader and Vice President, Alexander Rutskoi, claims that he is now President of Russia and refuses to leave the Russian White House, along with about 100 of his hard line supporters, until he is recognized as President.

After laughing for a bit or at least chuckling as you read the news clippings, one has to feel sorry for the Russian people. Less than ten years ago, they were a world super power, feared by the democratic nations of the world. Their national symbol was the mighty and powerful Russian bear. Now, they are the laughingstock of the entire world. The Soviet Union collapsed, leaving behind a confused lot of people, blinded by freedom and the ambition to achieve success in world economics, something they will never achieve without knowledge and central leadership. The mighty bear armed with a hammer and sickle has been replaced by a hyena gnawing on the bones of an era gone by.

And so, the American people laugh at the misfortune of their not so long ago dreaded enemies. How ironic that the real joke is on us. The real humor is how the American public can forget that we gave this country $1.6 billion in economic aid last spring. Now, when I give money to somebody I know who I'm giving it to. We should care who we give our money to. With the current situation in the Kremlin, how can we know where, or to whom, our ill advised aid package money is going to? A bank wouldn't lend money to a business with a trend for instability, so why should we? Especially when you consider the bank, being ourselves, is already billions of dollars in debt.

So laugh all you want, America, at the pain in Russia. At least it couldn't happen here, right? Imagine if it could? Imagine how funny it would be if Congress decided not pass Clinton's National Health Plan and Clinton decided to fire Congress because his wife, Queen Hillary, would be so upset that her precious baby was shot down by evil, cold - hearted legislators led by an unrepentant Bob Dole. Not that I have anything against national health insurance, but since when does the First Lady have any official political power? Maybe if Bill died, Hillary would ascend to office, claiming that she has filled the role of Vice President and therefore should take over in her husband's place.

This little quip may be fantastical, but if it really happened I bet the Russians would be laughing, as long as they still got their money.

Express your opinion in the Strobe

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AIR FORCE

Announcements

Sponsor sheets and information for the "Stepping Forward AIDS BENEFIT Walk" on Sunday, October 17 can be picked up at the Upward Bound office, rm. 258, Conlon Music building. Call Carol McFarland, ext. 3439 for any questions.

The Early Childhood Club will meet on October 7th in McKay Room 179 at 1:30. The topic will be Lesson Plans with Dr. Strader. Please join us!

Audio compact discs are available in the library for student use. These discs are listed in the OPAC -Online public access catalogs - computers located in the middle of the first floor of the library. These discs are arranged by call number and are available at the Circulation Desk. There is a compact disc player on the 3rd floor and headphones are needed which are also available at the Circulation Desk. Audio compact discs can be checked out for four weeks so be sure to bring your FSC I.D. card.

The Peace Corps will be holding an informational meeting Thursday, October 14th, from 10:00 - 5:00 in G-Lobby of the Hammond Building. A film seminar will be held on Thursday October 14th at 12:00 noon or 5:00 pm in Room G04. Call 1-800-648-8052 for more information.

Fitchburg State College and the Worcester Center for Crafts have announced a joint degree program that will allow people to combine the study of liberal arts and sciences with extensive craftwork. Participants will spend the first two years completing the liberal arts and sciences portion of the program at Fitchburg State and the second two years studying their chosen medium at the Center. For more information, call the Worcester Center for Crafts at (508) 753-8183 or FSC (508) 345-2151.

Counseling Services will be offering several groups and workshops this semester beginning the week of September 20th. These include:

- Adult Children of Alcoholics Beginner's Group, Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00, beginning September 22nd in B16.
- Adult Child of Alcoholics Therapy Group, please call X3152 for more information.
- Past Sexual Trauma Group will be offered at two different times. Please call X3152 for more information.
- Relationships Group, Thursdays, 3:30-5:00, beginning September 23rd in B26/27.
- Meditation Group, Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00, beginning September 23rd in B26/27.
- Meditation Group, Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00, beginning September 22nd in B26/27.
- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and People Questioning Their Sexual Identity Group, please call X3152 for more information.
- Women's Program Series, "How the Media Influences Our Lives", October 7th, 3:00-4:30, in B26/27.
- Potential groups for the future will focus on eating disorders and coping with loss. If interested in attending such groups, students should contact Counseling Services.

Come join us to share, learn and grow together. For more information, call x3152, or stop by the Counseling Services Office on the 3rd floor of the Hammond Building between 2:00-3:00.

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Hammond Campus Center G Lobby
Information Meetings
Thursday, October 14 12:00 Noon and 5:00 p.m.
Hammond Campus Center Room G04
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617-565-5555 or 800-648-8052 ext. 266

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Shear Madness a cut above the rest

by Kelli Botta and
Danielle Sullivan
Strobe staff

Shear Madness, the longest running play in Boston, is billed as a "hilarious whodunit". Performed at the Charles Playhouse, the format of the show is a comedic murder mystery that involves audience participation.

In it's 10 year anniversary, the success of the play continues to astound producers Marilyn Abrams and Bruce Jordan, who never expected their play to take off the way it did. Not only is Boston's theatre district a perfect setting for Shear Madness, but so is Philadelphia, Chicago, Montreal, Spain, and even Tel Aviv, Israel. No matter where the show takes place, the audience can expect the same humorous plot along with some inside jokes associated with their city.

The setting for the play is a hairdressing salon on Newbury Street underneath an apartment building. A famous pianist is murdered upstairs from the salon. The four characters who were in the building during the time of the murder are now the prime suspects. With the help of the audience, two detectives attempt to crack the case.

The Charles Playhouse has a very intimate setting, with just under 200 seats that surround the stage in a semi-circle. This close feeling enables the cast to interact easily and comfortably with the audience. The audience must pay attention to clues given because after the murder is committed, the stage lights go up, and the audience is now involved in the interrogation of the suspects.

One of the reasons this play has been around for so long is that the ending of every performance is different. There are clues for every character that could indict them as the murderer, and whoever is most questioned by the audience will become the killer and confess to the crime. It is exciting for audience members to interact in this way and be given almost a feeling of performing themselves.

The comedy displayed throughout the play is top notch and what really shines is the talent that the cast members have for improvisation. Some of the hilarious jokes that came off the tops of their heads were the funniest of the whole night.

With a truly magical mix of great acting, stand-up, mystery, suspense, involvement and fun, Shear Madness has proved that it is a cut above the rest.

Shear Madness proves night after night why it's a smash file photo

Steeplejacks are off and running

Steeplejacks clear first hurdle

by Kelli Botta, Jen Cove, and
Danielle Sullivan
Strobe staff

On Thursday, September 23, the new sounds of The Steeplejacks filled the Union Stop Pub. Opening act Dan Cray set the stage for The Steeplejacks, who were followed by the Acid Clowns.

Performing for the first time in public, Steeplejack members John Hunt (bass and vocals), formerly of My Brother Zebulon, drummer Dave (Davis) Comeau and lead guitarist and vocalist Ian MacIntosh surprised the audience with their professional stage presence. Their style of music ranged from a heavy grunge sound with a punk twist that almost hit the industrial level. The Steeplejacks set consisted of original tunes as well as some covers including Jane's Addiction's "Summertime Rolls".

The overall reaction of the crowd was positive. Jason Murtagh, a member of the audience, said "The Steeplejacks are human tornadoes!" Others in attendance had equally supportive comments for the band.

The "Jacks" kept a smooth flowing show, interspersing songs with jokes and a "Beavis and Butthead" impersonation by Hunt. The sound quality however was slightly distorted by the amplifiers. Peter Johnson, a patron, summed up their performance by saying, "For the first time ever in front of an audience they performed pretty well."

All in all, it was a dollar well spent.

First coffeehouse a success

by Gina Procopio
Contributing writer

Fitchburg State College's first coffee house of the semester took place in the Union Stop Pub on September 19 and was a resounding success. The opener of this year was singer David Grover, a first time performer at FSC. Armed with his guitar, Grover started the night with "Midsummer's Day Dream" by Triumph, and after that the flavor of the night varied from sixties music and blues, some pop, and the occasional instrumental guitar riff, including one from Doc Watson.

The evening maintained a steady stream of interest with the variety of not only the artist's originals about the Berkshires, but wide-ranged requests comprised of Peter, Paul and Mary's "Puff the Magic Dragon" and many other old favorites such as Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl" as well as hits from James Taylor and Paul Simon. Grover attempted to serve everyone's tastes with medleys of different artists and a wealth of songs in their entirety. When the requests turned to mostly the yearnings of Beatles fans, Grover kept up with everything from "You've Got to Hide Your Love Away" to "Help" and a sing along of "Yellow Submarine".

During the performance the audience often contributed rounds of applause, whistles, and at one point students even broke into dance. The final song, "All My Life's a Circle", unified the crowded audience into a backup group of voices.

Overall, Grove was a tremendous success and received a standing ovation at the conclusion of the night. It was a good time for all in attendance.

True Romance: a twisted love story

by Shawn Sullivan
Staff writer

Picture, if you will, 1992's "Reservoir Dogs" with sweetener added. As written by newcomer Quentin Tarantino, "Dogs" had a bite that felt like David Mamet on a binge of sadism and torture.

Packed with bold profanity and squeamish violence, "Reservoir Dogs" was a breath of fresh air from a talented new screenwriter. With "True Romance", Tarantino has crossed over from art house storytelling to slick commercialism. As a twisted "dramedy" about two lovers on the run, "True Romance" remains true to the Tarantino style; it is disarmingly sweet at times, yet gritty, gory and filled with bad guys at others.

And what bad guys they are! The villains in "True Romance" are slimy enough to make young lovers Christian Slater and Patricia Arquette run faster than Bonnie and Clyde. Gary Oldman, the chameleon-like actor who has portrayed everyone from Dracula to Lee Harvey Oswald to your favorite great aunt, is both creepy and intimidating as a dreadlocked pimp. And Christopher Walken, with his stone cold face and monotonously evil voice, is a calm-tempered Mafia boss who refuses to tolerate jabs taken at his Sicilian ethnicity. Plant these two bad seeds and their henchmen on a murderous search, and it seems as though Slater and Arquette don't have a prayer.

If it seems that they don't have a chance, at least they have each other. Slater plays Clarence, a lonely comic book store employee with very little excitement in his life. Arquette plays Alabama, an inexperienced call girl from Tallahassee who is sent to Charlie by his boss to help him celebrate his birthday. A wonderful night of business turns to pleasure for Alabama, and the two lost souls find romance. Their love story starts out cute and innocent, but becomes deadly when Clarence takes matters into his own hand and ices Alabama's vile and demeaning pimp.

Although the story line is fairly conventional, Tarantino and director Tony Scott ("The Last Boy Scout") serves it up with plenty of twists, surprises and dazzling locations. Scenes take place at a noisy airport, in a steamy phone booth, on a speeding rollercoaster, and on top of a neon-lit building, to name a few. There is one sequence in the movie that drags, but outside of that small stretch, never are we bored by what is going on or where it is happening.

Along with the villains, the good guys are equally appealing. Slater and Arquette are likable and cheerfully in love, never letting the violent shenanigans come between them. Dennis Hopper is Slater's father, and has an absolutely intense, defiant scene with Walken's godfather.

Brad Pitt is hilarious as a junkie who takes his head out a cloud of smoke just long enough to obliviously give the bad guys directions when they come looking for the two lovers. The only weakness here is a brief cameo by Val Kilmer, who is given a few needless minutes to impersonate Elvis whenever Clarence needs help from the voices in his head.

Tarantino defines the individualities of his characters by supplying them with their own thoughts and vulgar ways to express them and Scott gives them enough action to speak louder than their words.

Thanks to Loews Theatre in Leominster

The Pursuit of Happiness finds nothing

by Brian Fernandez
Contributing writer

The Pursuit of Happiness, a Toronto based band, is definitely going in the wrong direction on The Downward Road, their debut album. This band of four play their instruments well, but with weak lyrics and a rotten lead singer they are dragged down. There is a hard side to the material, but nothing that will knock a person off their feet.

The first song on the album, "Cigarette Dangles", is basically a weak little poem. "Pressing Lips", the fifth track, is an acoustic tune where lead singer Moe Berg's voice is at its worst. It's a shame because without Berg this band really would have some potential. "Bored of You" is an attempt to get heavy, although due to terrible lyrics it was impossible to sit through.

The only bright spot on the album is "Love Theme From TPOH", where the band jams out and Berg doesn't blurt out a word. It shows how great the band is without the lead singer. "Crashing Down" seems to be a tune influenced by the Chili Peppers but is sung by guess who, and you can guess what.

The Downward Road is a definite disappointment and nothing can be found with the Pursuit of Happiness.

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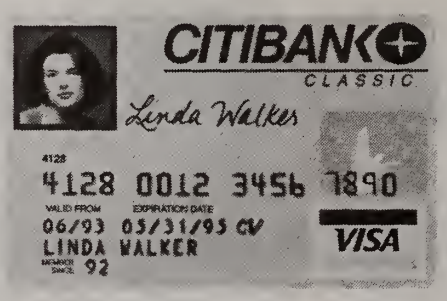

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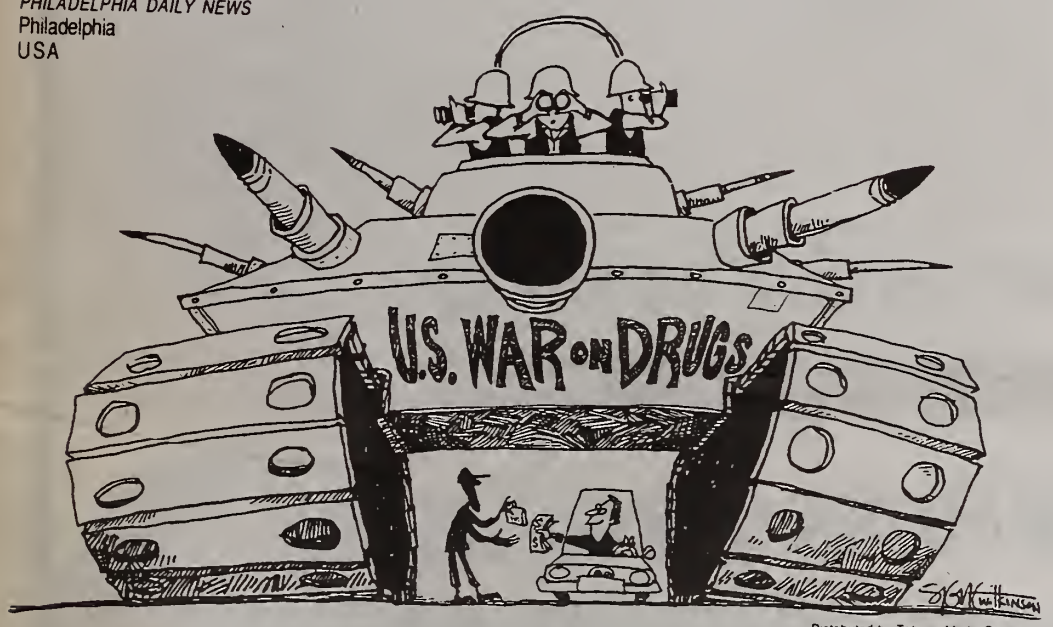

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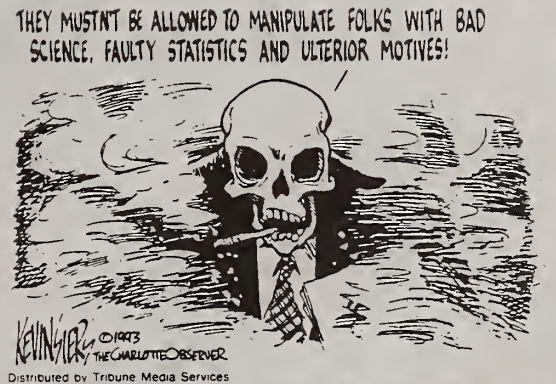

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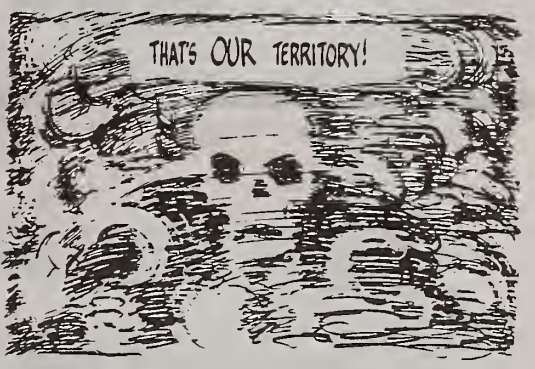
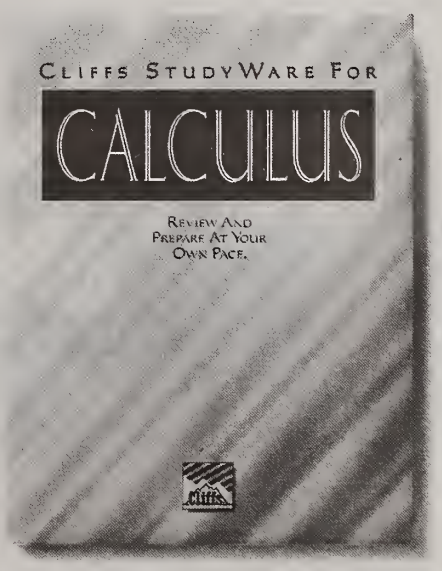


Pregnant Pause By Anthony Rubino, Jr.

When cartoon characters get fed-up.



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FSC sports wrap-up

by Michael Gordon
Strobe Staff

The 1993 fall Falcon teams are off and running. Most of the teams are playing exceptionally well and those teams with not so impressive records are better than their standings indicate.

In particular has been the competitive play on the gridiron. The Falcon's football team has suffered two tough losses and a tie. Despite their losses, the team's morale has gone unblemished. They are extremely confident about the remainder of the season.

In addition, FSC has installed a new lighting system at the Robert Eliot field. The team is scheduled to play two night games next year. Hopefully this, along with a few wins, will attract a good recruiting class for the future.

And in its inaugural season, the women's soccer team has been awesome. Posting a 3-1 record, they have been a dominating force. Led by outstanding captain Ginger Boermeester, they are aiming for a title.

Speaking of offensive prowess, the field hockey team looks like the Pittsburgh Penguins. They have a similar playing style to the soccer team; they play in the opponent's end of the field throughout the game.

Continuing its winning ways have been the women's cross-country and men's soccer teams. Both will be major forces in their conferences.

It has been a long time since we have had so many great and exciting teams at FSC at one time. Come out and support your teams. Boost the athletic department.

FSC athletes shine

After three weeks of fall sports, several of our athletes have received league honors for their outstanding play. Let's mention them:

Ginger Boermeester- Women's Soccer: MASCAC Player of the Week

Owen Bard- Football: NEFC Defensive Player of the Week

Dave Mambro- Football: NEFC Defensive Player of the Week

Mike Barry- Football: ECAC Player of the Week, WAFA Player of the Week

CONGRATULATIONS!

CRAFTY'S CORNER

by Stephen B Crafts
Staff writer

So, you're looking at the standings and you see the Sox 10 games back. "But Crafty," you say, "What happened? According to you, they were supposed to be on top of their division. This was supposed to be the year!" Well, I reply with only one word, and I think you all know what that word is...Roger.

Let's cut through all the BS, shall we? A typical Roger Clemens year puts the Sox, at the very least, two to three games back going into the final week. It's that simple.

True, Roger Clemens is human. True, Roger Clemens is allowed to have an off year. But, if all this is true, the Sox are going to finish no better than what they did. To win, you need your franchise player to have a franchise player year. And Roger didn't even have an average season.

I'm not bitter. I'm not bitching. I'm simply stating fact. Hey, the Sox made a great run at the pennant. For a month they were untouchable. They made it fun. But they just didn't have the "man" to keep the glue together when things began to fall apart. Case closed. Now lets go out and get Marquis Grissom, a catcher who can make a difference, and we'll see ya' in '94!

Now let's take a look at the rest of the league. Writing this not too long ago would've meant talking about four divisional races. But somehow, it has all been reduced to one.

A.L. East - hate 'em or not, ya gotta respect the Toronto Blue Jays. Pat Gillick, is he the gutsiest guy in baseball or what? When four teams were within three games of the lead, and the club's essential need is pitching, what does he do? Answer: Acquire Rickey Henderson. Sure, maybe Rickey hasn't done exactly what Rickey can do in his stint with the Jays, but he's still a great player. And the Jays went out and got him. Rickey's presence has made a terrific impact.

A.L. West - What happened to the Rangers? Simple. Almost the same as the Red Sox: loss of their franchise player. No one can tell me that having roughly 20-30 more home runs and 60 RBI's from Jose Canseco wouldn't give the Rangers the divisional title.

N.L. East - Thanks to the Expos, and a little slide by the Phillies, what was at one point a runaway, turned into a race. But the Phils and MVP, Len 'Dude' Dykstra have pretty much sewn it up. But, ya' gotta love those Expos. Wait till next year.

N.L. West - Ahh, finally, a race. All I can say is, damn, I hate the Braves! Love Ron Gant, but hate those Braves. Ultimately, baseball euphoria will be achieved if the Giants can make up the game and a half to force a one game playoff in San Fran. Stay tuned.

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Football season outlook promising

by Sean McCarthy
Contributing writer

Despite the fact that they are winless after their first three games, Fitchburg football is on the verge of a promising season.

The team's record is 0-2-1, with both losses coming in the final quarter of play. The team is anchored by a tenacious defense led by junior co-captain Mike Barry.

New head coach Mike Woessner has injected his young team with enthusiasm and optimism. There is so much parity throughout the New England Football Conference that coach Woessner should not have to wait long for his first victory.

Although the offense is struggling, they have shown signs of improvement. Senior co-captain Tom Murray, a four year starter, leads a mostly inexperienced offensive line. However, this line could be the biggest in the league. Besides Murray, there are two intimidating freshman. Joe LaCorte and Howard "Snake" Bowie are as large as Division 1 lineman and are expected to improve with experience.

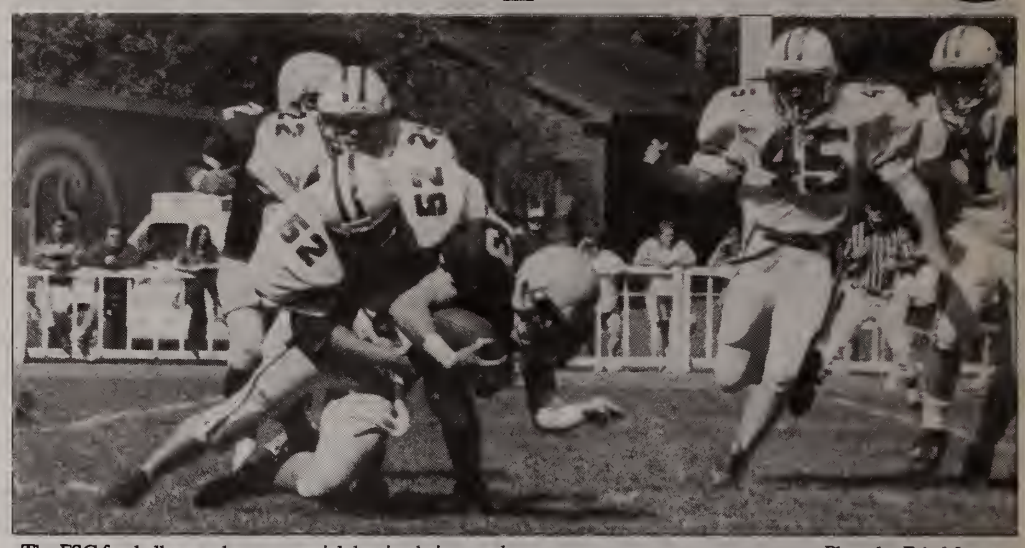
In week one, Fitchburg played host to Western New England College. Both teams showed signs of early season jitters, but the Falcons struck first with a nifty screen pass to senior tailback Chad Smith. Smith broke loose after a great block from Bowie and jaunted 71 yards for the score.

The Falcons then became somewhat ineffective and couldn't sustain a successful drive. The defense took things into their own hands and gave the Falcon's their next score. Junior defensive end Owen Bard intercepted a screen pass and scampered 67 yards untouched. The Falcon defense continued to frustrate the WNEC offense from then on. Freshman Charlie Ambroult had two pickoffs and Shane Sweck contributed with two pass breakups.

Late in the game with the score even, the Falcons were threatening. But as FSC lined up for the game winning field goal, they were penalized. The infraction proved to be costly as a 47 yard field goal attempt by Jack Naylor fell just inches short. The game ended in a 12-12 tie.

The second week, the Falcons traveled to Framingham State to face the Rams' aerial assault. Framingham is led by senior wide receiver, Rod Patten. The Falcons got on the board first after Dave Mambros's fumble recovery on the Framingham 32 yard line. From there Chad Smith dashed around the end for his second touchdown of the season.

However, on the ensuing kick off, it was the speedy Patten who returned the ball 89 yards for the touchdown. Framingham went for the tie, but botched up the kick and carried it in for 2 points, and a Rams lead.



The FSC football team shows potential despite their record. Photo by Eric Metzner

Quarterback Steve Nelson put the Falcons back on the board with a 31 yard pass to Matt Kiggins. The Ram offense quickly retaliated with a 40 yard strike to tie the game. But the Falcon defense was the story once again. Mike Barry registered a slew of tackles gaining him a spot on the New England Football Conference honor roll. Also, NEFC Player of the Week, Dave Mambro, blocked 2 kicks and recovered a key fumble.

Eventually, the Falcon defense was worn down. After three unsuccessful field goal attempts, the Ram kicker booted a 35 yard field goal with 16 seconds left in the game to win.

Next, an explosive and highly ranked Westfield State Owl team came to FSC. This was supposed to be the Falcon's toughest test. A safety early in the first quarter gave Westfield a two point lead. But midway through the second quarter, freshman tailback Frank Triolo exploded though the left side for a 79 yard touchdown. The Falcons went into the half with a shocking 7-2 lead.

In the third, Westfield came out hungry. Quarterback Todd Kiley scored on a bootleg around the right side. The Falcon offense began to sputter, and in the fourth while pinned deep in their own end, Fitchburg was forced to punt. Westfield jumped on the opportunity and sent everyone but the coach to block the kick. The successful block gave the Owls the field position they needed to ensure the victory. Derek LaPage threw a perfect pass to a wide open Tim Peters. The Owls never looked back.

Although the team is winless, they're playing some great football, and it shouldn't be long at all until they register their first well deserved win.

Men's, women's soccer teams off to great start

by Greg Masse
Contributing writer

The FSC women's soccer team is off to a flying start in their maiden season. After four games the team is 3-1. No one really knew how the team would perform, but they have been nothing less than outstanding.

In the opening game at New England College, FSC won in dramatic fashion. With the game tied at two, captain Ginger Boermeester blasted home the winner for her second tally of the game. The other score came from sophomore Andrea Kane. These two really worked well together.

When Lesley College came to Fitchburg for the home opener, FSC was ready. The ladies came out running as they annihilated Lesley 5-0. And with 7 points in 2 games, Ginger Boermeester received MASCAC Player of the Week.

Next on the hit list was Pine Manor. But due to a lack of players, Pine Manor was forced to forfeit. The Falcon record increased to 3-0.

The team then traveled to Regis College for game 4. After a very fast paced, up and down game, the ladies came up short. The high powered offense was shut down most of the game. The squad got their first taste of defeat in a tough 1-0 loss.

With the way the team has been playing, there's no telling just how far they'll go, hopefully to a league title.

The men's soccer team is also off to a great start. They have won 2 of their first 3 games. Last season the Falcons finished third in the division with a record of 10-5-2. This year's expectations are just as high for a combination of reasons.

"I think we should do better this season since we have a lot of returning starters, which brings more experience to the team," said John Toney, a sophomore starter.

The Falcons opened the season at home against Western New England College. The game was scoreless for a period and half until Takashi Adachi scored to give FSC the 1-0 lead. It didn't take the Falcons long to increase their lead as Erik Ringuette blazed the second goal past the outstretched WNEC netminder. Fitchburg edged out WNEC by a 2-1 score.

The Falcons took their act on the road against a much weaker Framingham State squad. Fitchburg increased their record to 2-0 by crushing the Rams 7-1. There were seven different scorers for the Falcons on this day.

When UMass-Lowell came to town, FSC was handed its first loss. Despite another great effort, UMass squeaked by with a 4-2 victory.

Field hockey team nets two wins

by Bill McGunigle
and Mike Gordon
Strobe staff

After just two games, the Fitchburg field hockey team appears to be a force to be reckoned with in Division 3.

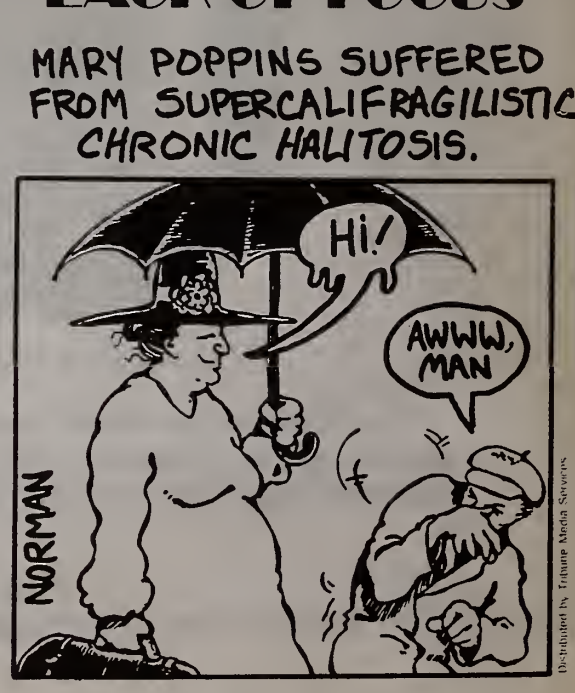
The Falcons opened the season on a cold and rainy Tuesday. Nevertheless, they thumped a hapless Nichols team 7-0. In game two as well, they buried Western New England College 5-1.

It has been said that the best defense is a good offense. This point was clearly illustrated in these two games. Nichols struggled all day long. They were unable to muster any form of attack. When they were fortunate enough to work the ball past midfield, Nichols was quickly thwarted by the Falcon defense.

FSC's Casey Bromage opened up the scoring just minutes into the game. This was only the beginning of a long and arduous afternoon for the shell-shocked netminder. Co-captain Amy Kosiewski followed with a brilliant tally. The senior drove through heavy traffic, pulled up short in the slot, and rifled a shot past the beleaguered goalkeeper. Moments later, Erika Oliver pounced on a loose ball in front of the net, and drilled it home. Fitchburg remained on cruise control as Wendy Gagliani closed out the first half scoring with two more goals.

In the second half, the Falcons scored two more times with goals from Oliver and Bromage respectively. After cruising to an impressive 7-0 win, the team traveled to Western New England College.

At WNEC, the Falcons continued to showcase their potent offense. Amy Kosiewski led the way with two outstanding goals. Other scores came from Oliver, Gagliani, and Bromage. Final score was 5-1 Falcons.

Not seen on the scoring sheet, but not going unnoticed, has been the inspirational play of senior co-captain, Lisa Chiarenza. Her relentless hustle and determination in the midfield kept the Falcon offense in the opposition's zone all day.

A driving force behind all their success is first year head coach, Lisa Valardi. Coach Valardi is a former field hockey star who "really knows her stuff," said Erika Oliver. "We all respect her."